



# **Marsha Blackburn**

## **U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TN-7**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BLACKBURN STATEMENT ON TERRI SCHIAVO BILL**

WASHINGTON, DC – Representative Marsha Blackburn (TN-7th District) spoke during debate on the Terri Schiavo legislation, S. 686, Sunday evening. The legislation passed by a bipartisan vote of 203 to 58 early Monday morning.

The following is Blackburn's statement during debate on the measure:

Mr. Speaker, we all know there are deep emotions involved in this debate tonight.

Earlier many of us met with Terri Schiavo's brother, and I don't think that anyone can truly convey what that family is going through. As a mother, a tragedy of this type is my worst nightmare.

But, Mr. Speaker -- we, this Congress -- we are not here simply because we believe in our hearts that a great mistake is about to be made. We are here because all of us, each and every one of us, Americans, Members of Congress, we all know and we understand that the most basic, most fundamental right guaranteed by our Constitution, is the right to life. And it is our responsibility to protect that right.

Now, I interpret and a lot of people have looked at the decision by the Florida judiciary and they interpret this as something that says our society, our country should be willing to accept and facilitate the murder of an adult human being, a human being who has not committed any crime at all whatsoever.

I don't think the Founders of our country or our Constitution would agree with that decision, Mr. Speaker.

I think it is entirely appropriate that the Federal courts consider this matter, a matter that so clearly speaks to the core of our belief, the belief that every human being has worth, every human being has a value, and every human being has a right to live.

Our hearts are with Terri Schiavo and her family. Our reason and our intellect are with the Constitution. ###